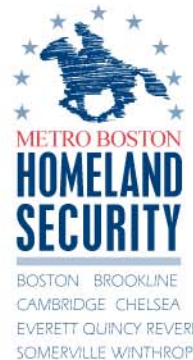




MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
**HOMELAND
SECURITY**
THOMAS M. MENINO
MAYOR

METRO BOSTON OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Monthly Newsletter May 2005, Volume 4



ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Jurisdiction Points of Contact Meetings

JPOC meetings have been scheduled through October. Please mark your calendar! If you can host an upcoming meeting please notify Carol Gerrior, Staff Assistant at (617)-635-1400.

Quincy - May 25, 2005

Host needed - June 29, 2005

Host needed - July 27, 2005

Boston - August 31, 2005

Chelsea - September 28, 2005

Brookline - October 26, 2005

Training Information

Local Resources

General information concerning training provided by the DelValle Institute of Emergency Preparedness can be accessed at <http://www.bphc.org/delvalle>

Information on the availability of homeland security training sponsored by the State can be accessed at

<http://www.mass.gov/portal/index.jsp?pageID=eopssubtopic&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Finding+%26+Training+Opportunities&L2=Homeland+Security&L3=Training%2fCourses&sid=Eeops>.

Please refer to the Subcommittee updates for specific information on training.

Specific requests for support of training must be made to the Metro Boston Office of Homeland Security. OHS will submit all requests for training to the State/Federal agency on behalf of its regional partners.

The following three courses have been offered to all of our regional partners:

Weapons of Mass Destruction

This one-day course is offered through EMCRT/New Mexico Tech and is open to all Public Safety Personnel (Fire, Police, Corrections, Emergency Dispatchers, EMS, Emergency Management) and contractors who may be responsible for responding to a terrorist or suicide bombing incident. The course is broken down into two segments: *Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings* and *Preventing and Responding to Suicide Bombing Incidents*.

The course is designed to help first responders develop policies for the prevention, interdiction, response, and mitigation of a suicide bombing attack and to react effectively, work cooperatively, and apply countermeasures in a WMD incident involving explosives.

Dates, Times, and Locations

May 10, 2005

8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M

Department of Correction Training Academy at the Shirley Training Complex

May 11, 2005

8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M

Roxy Theatre - Otis Air Force Base, Bourne, MA

ICS-300

This three-day course is offered through MEMA and is designed for mid-level management first responder agencies. The series of modules offered will instruct how to effectively manage incidents that extend beyond the normal work schedule, expanding on the planning, logistics and finance/administration section of the Incident Command System. Don Carlton will serve as the instructor.

The modules offered are:

Module #7	Organization and Staffing
Module #8	Organization for Incident and Events
Module #9	Incident Resources Management
Module #10	Air Operations
Module #11	Incident and Event Planning

All attendees must have taken the NIMS ICS200 or equivalent prior to taking this course.

Dates, Times, and Locations

May 3 - 5, 2005 (Tuesday - Thursday)

8:30AM to 4:00PM (all three days)
Middlesex Sheriff's Training Academy
793 Boston Rd.
Billerica, MA

Exercise Design Course (G120)

This three-day course is offered through MEMA and is open to all first responders. The course is designed to develop skills that will enable those attending to train staff and to conduct an exercise that will test a community's plan and its operational response capabilities. It will provide knowledge and develop skills that will enable those attending to manage exercise evaluation activities before, during, and after an emergency management exercise. Don Carlton will serve as the instructor.

Dates, Times, and Locations

May 11 - 13, 2005 (Wednesday - Friday)
8:30AM to 4:00PM (Wednesday and Thursday)
8:30AM to 1:00PM (Friday only)

Andover Police Department
32 North Main St.
Andover, MA

For more information on these three regional training initiatives, please contact your discipline coordinator or Adam Wehrenberg at Adam.Wehrenberg@cityofboston.gov.

Metro Boston Homeland Security Website

The Metro Boston Office of Homeland Security would like to invite our area partners to visit our web site at <http://www.mbhsr.org> on the City of Boston Web Page. The site is continuously being updated with news and reports on homeland security and the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region.

In a continued effort to disseminate important information to our regional agencies as quickly as possible, the Metro Boston Homeland Security website will soon offer a Frequently Asked Questions section. The FAQ section will offer information about procurement, reimbursement, contact information, and other guidelines and links that will direct you to some of our documents, policies, and partners.

This site is intended to serve the needs of the region, if there's anything you would like to add please feel free to submit it to: Homeland.Security@cityofboston.gov or reach us through the contact page.

PROJECT UPDATES

Operation Atlas

The Operation Atlas Full-Scale Exercise was postponed from May 7 until early June due to potentially dangerous weather conditions. At this time, the tentative new date is Saturday, June 4, 2005. More information about this will be forthcoming.

Operation Atlas focuses on an aviation incident aboard a United Airlines Paris to Chicago flight. The aircraft is forced to make an emergency landing at Logan International Airport.

Logan is a \$6.6 billion economic engine for New England and one of our Region's most critical infrastructures. A critical element of this program will be ensuring that we build into the scenario how our region would be affected by such an incident. The first major Operation Atlas event, the Exercise Planning Workshop (EPW), brought together over 100 local, state, and federal homeland security stakeholders and was an unqualified success. The EPW helped define the objectives for evaluation during Atlas and also helped identify objectives to be evaluated in future exercises. The OHS will utilize the results of the EPW to come up with a plan for the next year of exercises. These exercises may be discipline- or jurisdiction-specific and may also be interdisciplinary or multi-jurisdictional.

Important Dates

June 4, 2005 – FSE – Full-Scale Exercise (*Tentative*)

Incident Management Team Level 3 (IMT 3)

The course is intended to be delivered at a facility chosen by a host agency to senior level personnel (approx. 30-50) across multiple disciplines and jurisdictions, over the course of a seven consecutive day period. Sponsored by FEMA, the IMT3 is in compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and completion of the course would certify personnel to manage large scale incidents across jurisdictional lines, thereby providing a tremendous asset to Metro-Boston's regional preparedness and response capacities. There is a pre-requisite that must be taken to be eligible for participation in the IMT3, a paper-based course entitled "*Q316: Introduction to Command and General Staff*." A majority of the regional fire departments have already had senior level personnel complete and pass this course in preparation for IMT3.

It has recently been determined, after a great deal of communication between the Office of Homeland Security and the United States Fire Academy, that incident training at this level should not be participated in by members of only one discipline, as was initially proposed by the Fire Service Sub-Committee. An example was cited in a major U.S. city where the course was delivered to only the fire discipline, and the difficulties and inefficiencies of such a narrow delivery. Since the IMT3 is a time-consuming, expensive

training to deliver, it would be most effective if personnel from all disciplines provided a buy-in.

There are two issues, however, that will make successful completion of training on this level difficult. One is that it requires individual departments to function in the absence of some of its senior most leaders. The other is the timely completion of the Q316 pre-requisite course, which takes approximately 2-4 hours to complete, and must be faxed to the Emergency Management Institute in Maryland for correction and accreditation.

Michael Colanti, Fire Service Coordinator, will be speaking to all regional sub-committees about the course in an effort to field questions and gauge interest. Some personnel from all disciplines have already expressed interest in response to an e-mail recently sent out by Sara Phillips of the MBOHS. Should interest be sufficient, it is planned that the course will be scheduled at some point in mid-to-late September, as to not interfere with family vacations and child-care issues.

NOTE: When the IMT 3 course was delivered in the National Capitol region, a security issue arose during class time, and all relevant personnel in the room gathered together to manage the situation. The USFA realizes that there is the possibility of a situation arising during any of its trainings. It does, however, expect full attendance and participation barring a major incident.

Communications Interoperability

Pursuant to the RFP issued in March, a contract for regional communications interoperability assessment, strategic planning, and implementation support has been conditionally awarded to Touchstone Consulting Group, Inc. Touchstone will be familiar to many regional stakeholders: they previously worked with the region on a DHS-funded project called RapidCom. Touchstone's familiarity with our region and their unparalleled experience in synergizing diverse groups of stakeholders will be critical to the success of the region's planning efforts.

The Regional Council adopted the Communications Interoperability Subcommittee's charter at its April meeting.

The Communications Interoperability Subcommittee continues its work. A Regional technical assessment is nearly completed, with only a few jurisdictions and stakeholders still working to finish data collection. The contractor will then work to collate and analyze the data, establishing a baseline from which to plan for regional improvements in communications interoperability. The next step is to develop a comprehensive strategic plan comprised of short- and long- term improvements for interoperability in the region. The Subcommittee includes representation from each MBHSR community as well as BAPER, Metro-Fire, Massport, EOPS, and EMS.

EOC Evaluation/MBHSIC Creation

The OHS is engaging a vendor to evaluate the Region's existing Emergency Operations Centers and recommend enhancements.

The contractor's analysis will include a review of current practices, policies, and procedures for routine operations, as well as emergency operations in response to all-hazard events. The contractor will review current internal EOC procedures and notification processes. The contractor will focus on the importance of MBHSR's requirement to manage day-to-day operations and to remain effectively prepared to handle potential and impending emergency situations.

In addition, the MBHSR seeks to design and create a regional Homeland Security Integration Center. The Metro-Boston Homeland Security Integration Center (MBHSIC) will collocate emergency operations, homeland security training, intelligence and information collection and sharing, and continuity of government functions. The MBHSIC will serve as the City of Boston's primary EOC, the backup EOC for all MBHSR communities, and will be capable of supporting operations throughout the MBHSR.

DISCIPLINE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

The EMS Subcommittee met on three separate occasions during the month of April (April 5th, 19th, and 26th) in order to complete project plan submissions for FY2004. Major topics for all three meetings revolved around finalizing details for the FY2004 project plan submission deadline. The Subcommittee has submitted several project proposals and/or equipment requests to meet the apparent gaps in overall preparedness that the EMS Discipline Subcommittee has worked hard to identify. Among these project proposals have been the request for regional MCI trailers and prime movers to pull the trailers, standardized PPE and preparedness equipment to be deployed on all UASI partner ambulances, standardized EMS BLS and oxygen kits for all fire apparatus which deliver EMS, and various equipment requests to meet the needs of first responders across the region who would be called to take action if a major catastrophe were to occur. The Subcommittee has also planned to hire a consulting firm for the purpose of completing a thorough capability assessment and gap analysis of the pre hospital and hospital care systems and the development of a Boston MCI plan. This MCI plan would then be made adaptable to the rest of the region as we move forward in establishing a uniform Phase Response Plan.

Upcoming Trainings

Advanced WMD/Hazardous Materials Technician Course:

June 6-10

WMD Protection & Decontamination for Health Care Workers

May 9-11

June 20-22

All courses are sponsored by the DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness

All courses start at 8:00 am, registration begins at 7:30

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, May 10th from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM at Everett City Hall

Week of May 16th from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM. Location TBD

For more information concerning the Regional EMS Discipline Subcommittee, please contact Jonathan Dillon at jonthan.dillon@cityofboston.gov.

FIRE SERVICES/HAZMAT

The Fire Service Subcommittee has continued to work towards a number of regional initiatives that have been identified as critical and short term goals.

Firehouse Software

The committee has received approval and submitted all necessary paperwork for Firehouse Software, an application that will assist in integrating the regional communities, as well as provide an organized means to track all trainings and equipment purchased within the region using UASI Homeland Security funds. Over the next few months, Firehouse Software representatives will begin visiting the regional Fire Departments to install the software, transfer data, and train staff.

Regional Planning Committee

At the last Fire Sub-Committee meeting, a group was established that will be meeting in the coming months to develop a regional plan for all Fire UASI partners. This plan will work towards identifying policies and protocols for how communities would react to and assist one another in the early phases of a WMD / Terrorist event. They will also identify the current capacities of each department, and assess what each town would be willing to provide to one another in the case of such an event. The goal of the Sub-Committee is to establish a Standard Operating Procedure for the region, within but apart from what protocols are for the current Metro-Fire organization.

Upcoming Trainings

WMD / Radiological Awareness Course

On April 22nd at Massport Fire, a planning session for 18 regionally certified trainers was held by Deputy Bob Rossi of Cambridge Fire and Chief Curt Holzendorf of Boston Fire. The purpose of this day was to establish a baseline for how the ODP-approved WMD Awareness course would be delivered throughout the region.

The day was a success, and was essential to making sure that instructors were comfortable with the material and had the confidence to deliver a credible course. Other items that were discussed were: Site familiarity; logistics such as arrival times, signing-in, filling out the appropriate paperwork; and an explanation of what the Urban Area Security Initiative is, who the Metro-Boston Office of Homeland Security is, and why the WMD course is being undertaken.

The course will be delivered by approximately 30-50 regionally certified instructors who also were certified in the completion of the ODP Train-the-Trainer course delivered on Feb. 28th. It is expected that the trainings will take place at Massport Fire, Quincy Shipyard and Everett PD over the course of approximately 3-5 months. The region plans on holding between 90-110 classes to complete instruction.

The first two pilot classes have been scheduled at Massport Fire for Monday, May 2nd, and Tuesday, May 3rd. There will be two instructors in each class, representing four (4) departments, and all 9 jurisdictions, as well as Massport Fire, will be sending companies to attend.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, May 11th – 10:00AM at Revere Fire

For more information concerning the Regional Fire Service Subcommittee, please contact Mike Colanti at Michael.Colanti@cityofboston.gov.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee (LEC) has been meeting bi-weekly at rotating locations within the MBHSR and has gained substantial momentum on its main projects.

The major undertakings presently of the LEC remain the drafting of a proposal for a regional camera surveillance system and the creation of a regional tactical response team.

Regional Surveillance

The drafting of a proposal for the regional camera surveillance system continues to be a major initiative moving forward. On May 2, the Regional Surveillance Workgroup toured the surveillance project and Emergency Communications Center in the City of Chicago which received funding under Homeland Security. The goal of the visit was to investigate what has already been installed elsewhere and use lessons learned and previous successes in the creation of our own proposal. The hardware, server, storage, and capabilities already in place in Chicago are similar to the goals of the LEC for creation of a system here in Metro Boston. The workgroup was able to view the OEMC, 311 (Non-emergency) Center, and pods in the field and were able to meet with a number of law enforcement officials that worked on its creation, maintenance, and operation.

Regional Tactical Team

The Subcommittee is looking to create a regional plan for tactical operations, which will lay the groundwork for a proposed MBHSR tactical team. The goal of the team is to create uniformity among responders and efficiency in procedures in any number of homeland security-related instances that may require a heightened security presence. The immediate goal of the Subcommittee is to complete an assessment of current equipment, training and capabilities, and incorporate this into a regional response plan incorporating all agencies.

Trainings

All trainings are held at the DelValle Institute in Boston unless otherwise noted.

WMD Protection & Decontamination for Law Enforcement (24-hour)

May 4-6	June 13-15	Aug 8-10
May 23-25	June 27-29 (Everett)	Aug 31-Sept 2

Advanced WMD/Hazardous Materials Technician Course (40-hour)

June 6-10

Locations

Boston:

Miranda-Creamer Building
35 Northampton Street
Boston, MA

Everett:

Everett Police Department
45 Elm Street
Everett, MA

There still openings in most sessions. If you would like further information about these trainings, please contact Adam Wehrenberg, Law Enforcement Coordinator, at the email address below.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Law Enforcement Subcommittee meeting will be held at Quincy PD at 10 AM on May 19, 2005.

For more information concerning the Regional Law Enforcement Subcommittee, please contact Adam Wehrenberg at Adam.Wehrenberg@cityofboston.gov.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Public Health Subcommittee held its monthly meeting at the Brookline Public Health Department on April 25th. The Subcommittee discussed draft proposals to be submitted to the Metro Boston Office of Homeland Security. As part of the existing MBOHS EOC project the Public Health Subcommittee proposes the hiring of consultants to work with individual UASI communities in performing mass dispensing site surveys.

To improve and integrate emergency operation plans, the Public Health Subcommittee is proposing the hiring of a consulting firm to develop planning materials and work with individual communities in analyzing existing municipal emergency operation plans, identify gaps and more fully develop individual plans. Upon completing a realized emergency operation plan for each individual community the consultants will work with all partners to develop an integrated plan for the region that will highlight overall linkages within the UASI region.

The Public Health Subcommittee is networking with our partners at the state level to tackle the sensitive issue of special populations' awareness in disaster situations. The Public Health Subcommittee is also working with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health to discuss mental health issues in disaster scenarios and develop incident protocols.

Trainings

All courses are sponsored by the DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness
All courses start at 8:00 am, registration begins at 7:30

Advanced WMD/Hazardous Materials Technician Course:

June 6-10

WMD Protection & Decontamination for Health Care Workers

May 9-11

June 20-22

Upcoming Meetings

The next sub committee meeting will be held at Brookline Public Health on Thursday, May, 26th between 12:30-2:00.

For more information concerning the Regional Public Health Subcommittee, please contact Liam Seward at Liam_Seward@bphc.org.

HEALTH CARE

The Health Care Subcommittee has been working closely with Boston EMS on some proposals for FFY 2004 spending; foremost among these projects is a proposal for a Patient Tracking Software system for the medical community.

On Monday April 18th, DMS demonstrated their patient tracking system at the medical tents of the Boston Marathon. And the next day they gave a presentation on their system to hospital and EMS attendees at the DelValle Institute. This follows a presentation by Raytheon in mid-March to demonstrate their system for the Boston area medical community.

The hospitals were invited to both demonstrations, and have been involved in determining (along with the EMS and Public Health partners) the requirements and specifications that are necessary to make such a system compatible with and helpful to its proposed everyday users.

I have brochures from both the DMS system and the Raytheon system available in PDF format; please email me if you are interested in receiving them. Additionally, the following two links should take you to the companies' websites if you are interested in reviewing information about them.

<http://www.raytheon.com/products/static/node3765.html>

<http://www.disastermanagementsolutions.com/>

In addition to a Patient Tracking system, the hospitals have established smaller working groups to help research, write and review proposals on specific subjects, including Surge support capacity, detection and monitoring equipment, joint exercise proposals and reviews, and a complete medical system assessment. Given the compressed timeline for proposals under FFY 2004 funds, many of the project taskforces that were discussed at the previous Health Care Subcommittee meetings will begin work for proposals that will ultimately fall under FFY 2005 funding. Projects currently underway include an 800 MHz hospital radio system, a PPE and equipment stockpiling plan, a radiation monitoring system, and an isolation/decon combination tent.

Upcoming Trainings

All courses are sponsored by the DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness.

Level B 24 Hour Training

May 9-11th

June 20-22nd

Level C 8 Hour Training

May 18th

WMD & Hazmat 8 Hour Refresher

June 3rd

Web EOC Training (conducted via call-in)

April 15th 10:00-11:00 AM

May 10th 2:00-3:00 PM

Using the Health & Homeland Alert Network

April 27th 9:00-12:00 PM

May 3rd 1:00-4:00 PM

May 24th 9:00-12:00 PM

June 7th 9:00-12:00 PM

June 29th 1:00-4:00 PM

DelValle Institute: Special Topics on Emergency Preparedness Lecture Series

Responding to a Dirty Bomb

May 18th 11:00 AM

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Sherman Auditorium, East Campus, 330 Brookline Avenue, Boston

Ronald E. Goans, PhD, MD, MPH

Senior Medical Consultant, Occupational and Radiation Medicine, MJW Corporation

Former Consultant Medical Director, Oak Ridge Labs

Mega Surge: Preparing for 10,000 Patients, Where Do We Stand?

June 9th 3:00 PM

Tufts-New England Medical Center

Wolff Auditorium, 800 Washington Street, Boston

John L. Hick, MD

Medical Director, Minnesota Department of Health,

Office of Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Physician and Medical Director for Emergency Preparedness,

Associate Medical Director for EMS, Hennepin County Medical Center

Associate Medical Director, Minneapolis/St. Paul MMRS

Harvard School of Public Health
Center for Public Health Preparedness Speaker Series: Preparing for a Public Health Emergency

What should I know about Emergency Response Agencies? An Introduction to the Alphabet Soup of Emergency Preparedness

May 12, 2005 12:30-1:30 PM

Room G2

Kresge Building, 677 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA

Jon Burstein, MD

Instructor of Emergency Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

ANTICIPATING AVIAN INFLUENZA & OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE: LESSONS LEARNED FROM SARS

Tuesday, May 10th, 2005 1:00 - 3:30 PM

Harvard School of Public Health

Kresge Building, Snyder Auditorium

677 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA

Featured Speakers:

Gerilynne Nephew, RN, BScN

Manager of the Communicable Disease Liaison Unit, Toronto Public Health

Gabriel Leung, MD, MPH

Takemi Fellow in International Health, Harvard School of Public Health

Associate Professor of Community Medicine, University of Hong Kong

Marc Lipsitch, PhD

Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health

Moderated by:

Howard Koh, MD, MPH

Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of the Practice of Public Health

Associate Dean for Public Health Practice, Harvard School of Public Health

Jennifer Leaning, MD, SMH

Professor of International Health, Harvard School of Public Health

For more information concerning the Regional Health Care Subcommittee, please contact Tim McDonald at tmcdonal@bu.edu.